

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20, 37, 39 and 41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Figure 1 and claims 17 and 41 are amended. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 37 is allowed, and that claims 4-12, 15-18 and 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 17 and 41 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 17 and 41, as well as claims 15, 16 and 18, which depend respectively therefrom, are in condition for allowance. However, for the reasons set forth below, claims 4-12, 15, 16 and 18 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

II. Restriction/Election Requirement

Applicants maintain the traversal of the July 3, 2008 Restriction/Election Requirement.

III. Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to Figure 1, asserting that Figure 1 lacks an appropriate legend. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to Figure 1 submitted herewith is responsive to the Examiner's comments, and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,971,213 to Lee (hereinafter "Lee"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,220,783 to Ranney (hereinafter "Ranney"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a refrigerator including a main body having a storage space formed therein, and a door having an insulating layer therein and rotatably coupled to the main body so as to selectively open and close the storage space. The refrigerator includes a dispenser including a dispenser housing installed in a concave portion of a front surface of the door, wherein the dispenser discharges water to an outside of the refrigerator, and a water tank installed between a door liner that defines a rear surface of the door and the dispenser housing. The water tank is spaced apart by a predetermined interval from each of the door liner and the dispenser housing and the water tank is at least partially surrounded by the insulating layer, and wherein the water tank stores water supplied from an external water supply source at a predetermined temperature and provides water to the dispenser for discharge to the outside.

Independent claim 39 is also directed to a refrigerator having a dispenser. The refrigerator includes a main body including an inner case positioned within an outer case, the inner case defining a storage space that is divided into a refrigerating chamber and a freezing chamber by a barrier, an insulating layer formed between the inner case and the outer case, and within the barrier that divides the refrigerating chamber and the freezing chamber, a water tank provided adjacent to the insulating layer, wherein the water tank receives water from an external water supply source and stores the received water therein, and a dispenser coupled to the water

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tank, wherein the dispenser dispenses water from the water tank.

As acknowledged in the Office Action, Lee alone neither discloses nor suggests each of the features of independent claims 1 and 39.

Lee discloses a water dispenser 1 provided in a door 10 of a refrigerator. A water supply drawer 20 is withdrawn from a water supply box 19 provided in the door 10, and water is supplied to a water tank 11 through an inlet hose 23 provided at a rear of the water supply box 19. Once the tank 11 is full, the drawer 20 is replaced. When a user pushes a lever 14, water is dispensed from the tank 11 through a drain hose 12 and cock 13 provided in a water dispensing part 16 of the door 10. The water tank 11 is provided within the confines of the storage space of the refrigerator, and not in a space between an inner surface of the door 10 and an inner surface of the water discharging part 16.

Lee neither discloses nor suggests a water tank installed between a door liner that defines a rear surface of the door and a dispenser housing, as recited in independent claim 1, nor that the water tank is spaced apart by a predetermined interval from each of the door liner and the dispenser housing and the water tank is at least partially surrounded by the insulating layer, as recited in independent claim 1. Similarly, Lee neither discloses nor suggests an insulating layer formed between the inner case and the outer case, and a water tank provided adjacent to the insulating layer, as recited in independent claim 39.

Further, Ranney fails to overcome the deficiencies of Lee. Ranney discloses a refrigerator 10 having an ice compartment 14 that holds a block of ice 15. A tank 16 is attached to an inner surface of a panel member 17 of the ice compartment door 11. A faucet 28 is coupled to a

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bottom end of the tank 16 through an aperture 27 formed in a bottom end of the panel member 17 of the door 11. When the door 11 is closed, the tank 16 rests against the block of ice 15, which cools the water in the tank 16, and water may be dispensed from the tank through the faucet 28. Ranney suffers deficiencies similar to those discussed above with respect to Lee. That is, the doors disclosed by Ranney are single panel doors that do not include any type of insulation between an inner and an outer panel thereof. Further, even if there were inner and outer panels with insulation provided therebetween, Ranney clearly discloses that the tank 16 is necessarily installed on the inner surface of the panel member 17 of the ice compartment door 11, so that it can rest against the block of ice 15.

As with Lee, Ranney neither discloses nor suggests a water tank installed between a door liner that defines a rear surface of the door and a dispenser housing, as recited in independent claim 1, nor that the water tank is spaced apart by a predetermined interval from each of the door liner and the dispenser housing and the water tank is at least partially surrounded by the insulating layer, as recited in independent claim 1. Similarly, as with Lee, Ranney neither discloses nor suggests an insulating layer formed between the inner case and the outer case, and a water tank provided adjacent to the insulating layer, as recited in independent claim 39.

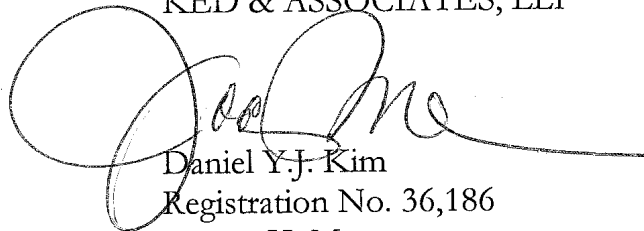
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 39 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lee and Ranney should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 19 and 20 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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